



Leyte in finishing stage of rehabilitating state-of-art facilities for 2009 Palaro

Tacloban City (March 8) -- When Leyte Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla said that the province of Leyte will rehabilitate the Leyte Sports Complex and the facilities necessary for the staging of the 2009 Palarong Pambansa, never did the public imagine that he really meant "state-of-the-art" facilities.

Indeed, because "state-of-the-art" is how people describe the facilities and the venue of the forthcoming April 27-May 3 national sports competition which Leyte is hosting.

"The Province of Leyte has spent around P75 million for the rehabilitation of the facilities including the Leyte Sports Development Center. The provincial government headed by Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla has earmarked the bulk of the budget for the rehabilitation of the Olympic-size swimming pool and the construction of rubberized track and field oval," Leyte Provincial Administrator Vince Emnas said during last Saturday's SCOOP Forum at the Kamayan Restaurant in Padre Faura, Malate, Manila.

Administrator Emnas said everything is going on smoothly as to the province's preparation for its second hosting of the event after 25 years.

Governor Petilla, ever the development oriented leader, envisions the Palarong Pambansa as an avenue to jumpstart the intensified and comprehensive sports development in Leyte and in the whole Eastern Visayas Region.

"This is one big reason why the Province of Leyte, headed by Gov. Carlos Jericho Petilla, submitted its bid for the Palaro. It gives the province the reason to refurbish our sports facilities which can be used by athletes not only from Leyte but also from Eastern Visayas, said Leyte Provincial Administrator Vince Emnas.

The same venue was used in hosting the 1983 Palaro, Mr. Emnas said, but this time, the track and field oval has been rubberized and the swimming pool has been modernized.

The Province of Leyte is willing to spend to the Palaro because Governor Petilla and the other provincial officials believe that this is an investment, a step they have to take in order to have a strong sports development program, Mr. Emnas added.

Some 10,000 athletes, officials and visitors are expected to troop to Leyte from the 17 Regions of the country, for this year's Palarong Pambansa.

All in all, there will be 15 sports events in elementary, while 17 in high school. Olympic sports like athletics, swimming, boxing, tae kwon do, badminton, archery, gymnastics, table tennis and lawn tennis are also included.

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